

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
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TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CSCE, SHUM, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET LECTURER ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE

REF: MOSCOW 2042

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ZNANIYE SOCIETY STAFF LECTURER, ANATOLIY
IVANOVITCH TIMOFEEV, CANDIDATE OF HISTORICAL SCIENCE
AND MEMBER OF THE UNION OF JOURNALISTS, MADE A TOUGH,
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AGGRESSIVE ATTACK ON "ENEMIES OF DETENTE" AND "FORCES
OF WESTERN IMPERIALISM" FEB 13 AND THREW DOWN THE GAUNTLET
TO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE
WHILE "DELINKING" THE ISSUE FROM THE ARMS CONTROL
ELEMENTS OF DETENTE. END SUMMARY.

2. ZNANIYE "INTERNATIONAL PANORAMA" LECTURE COVERED

USUAL WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS (SEPAIR) WITH MOST SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS ADDRESSED TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. FOLLOWING HISTORICAL BUILDUP TRACING THE HISTORY OF POST-WAR "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" AND THE EVOLUTION OF THE "COLD WAR," TIMOFEEV CHARACTERIZED THE CONTEMPORARY PERIOD AS POSSESSING CONFLICTING TENDENCIES AND TOOK SAME HARD SHOTS AT THE U.S. (THOUGH NOT AT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION DIRECTLY). HE STRESSED THAT "FORTUNATELY" WORLD LEADERS (MENTIONING CARTER AND GISCARD D'ESTAING SPECIFICALLY) ARE AT LEAST TALKING IN "THE LANGUAGE OF PEACE AND NOT IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE COLD WAR." HOWEVER, TIMOFEEV WARNED CARTER NOT TO BE INFLUENCED BY THOSE ANTI-SOVIET FORCES WHO HAD PERSUADED FORD TO DRAW BACK FROM DETENTE.

3. HE THEN WENT ON TO EMPHASIZE THAT SOVIET UNION WAS READY TO ENACT A SALT II ACCORD, CURB THE ARMS RACE AND COOPERATE WITH THE U.S. IN SEEKING A SOLUTION FOR THOSE PROBLEMS THREATENING WORLD PEACE (SUCH AS THE MID-EAST), BUT THAT THE USSR WOULD NOT TOLERATE ANY "INTER-FERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS." IN THIS REGARD HE CITED BREZHNEV'S JANUARY 18 SPEECH IN TULA AND THE JANUARY 31 CENTRAL COMMITTEE CPSU DELCARATION "ON THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT OCTOBER SOCIALIST REVOLUTION AS DELINEATING THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF SOVIET POLICY. TIMOFEEV DIRECTED HIS AUDIENCE'S ATTENTION TO THE FEB 12 PRAVDA ARTICLE "WHAT IS CONCEALED BEHIND THE CLAMOR ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS" (REFTEL) (WHICH HE TERMED "VERY IMPORTANT") FOR THE DEFINITIVE OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THAT ISSUE.

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4. TIMOFEEV CONDEMNED THOSE ANTI-SOVIET FORCES IN THE U.S. AND WEST EUROPE WHO WERE SEEKING TO DISCREDIT "SOCIALISM" WITH FABRICATED CHARGES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE USSR AND EAST EUROPE. HE WARNED AGAINST ATTEMPTS TO USE THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE FOR PROPAGANDA ATTACKS ON THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ("ATTACKS FROM ANOTHER FLANK") AND SPECIFICALLY CONDEMNED THE STATE DEPARTMENT STATEMENTS ON DISSIDENTS.

5. TIMOFEEV CONCLUDED HIS TREATMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY COUNTERPOSING THE ECONOMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SOCIALISM (A GROWTH RATE IN THE LAST YEAR FOUR TIMES THAT OF THE WEST, ETC.) WITH THE "CRISIS OF CAPITALISM" IN THE WEST EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES (GENERAL ECONOMIC DECLINE, MASS UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATION, CORRUPTION, VIOLENT CRIME, ETC.) HE THEN ACCUSED THE WEST, THROUGH THEIR "REACTIONARY MASS MEDIA," OF TRYING TO INFECT THE SOCIALIST WORLD WITH THE SICKNESS OF WESTERN IMMORALITY, SUCH AS PORNOGRAPHY AND DRUG ABUSE. "SUCH FREEDOMS WE

DO NOT NEED," HE DECLARED.

6. COMMENT. TIMOFEEV'S REMARKS FOLLOWED CLOSELY THE
LINE TAKEN IN PRAVDA FEB 12, SO MUCH SO THAT AT TIMES
HE SEEMED TO BE VIRTUALLY REPEATING IT. EMBOFFS
ATTENDING CONFERENCE WERE STRUCK BY RELATIVE PASSIVITY
OF AUDIENCE WHICH USUALLY MEETS PRESS WITH TOUGH

QUESTIONS THAT DEMAND MORE THAN PAP REPLIES. THERE WERE
NO QUESTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN
MEMBERS OF AN AUDIENCE OF 250 (HALF-FULL) GOT UP AND
LEFT MIDWAY THROUGH SPEAKER'S INITIAL REMARKS IN A
SILENT DISPLAY OF LACK OF ENTHUSIASM.
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